

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13 are independent. Claims 23 and 24 have been canceled.

Statement of Substance of Interview

The Examiner is thanked for conducting an interview in order to clarify the reasons for changing the grounds of rejection. During the interview, the Examiner expressed that he believed that Omichi's ROM can encompass both the claimed boot ROM and nonvolatile memory because the claims do not explicitly recite a separation between the two memories. The Examiner indicated that claims 23 and 24, for example, which do explicitly recite a separation between boot ROM and nonvolatile memory would overcome the rejection.

Basis for Amendment

Applicants disagree that Omichi's ROM includes a boot ROM, or that Omichi's ROM would encompass both a partially erasable nonvolatile memory and a ROM, since a ROM would not be partially erasable. However, in order to obtain allowance of the application, each of the independent claims have been amended to explicitly recite the limitation that the boot ROM is detached from the nonvolatile memory. Applicants request that the amendment be entered and considered as the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 01-223586 ("Omichi").

Claims 5, 7, 12, and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omichi in view of U.S.C. 5,818,848 ("Lin").

Claims 23 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As noted above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13 to recite that the boot ROM is detached from the nonvolatile memory, a limitation which had been indicated as being allowable during the interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

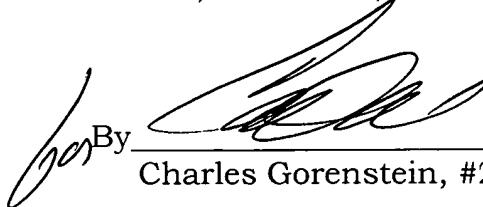
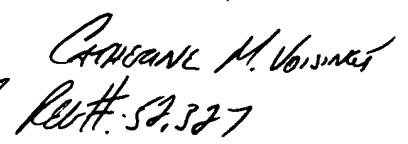
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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